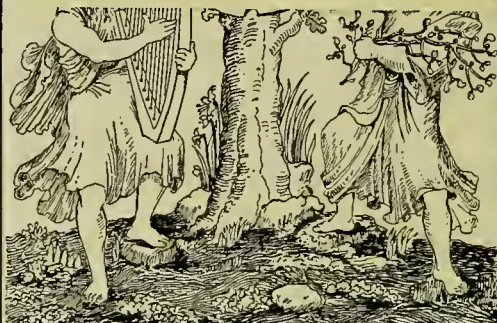




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W. T. SEARS

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

OF THE

Metropolitan Commissioners in Lunacy,

RELATIVE TO THE

GENERAL CONDITION OF THE INSANE IN WALES;

CONTAINING A

STATEMENT OF FACTS COLLECTED BY CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE BOARD APPOINTED
TO MAKE SPECIAL INQUIRIES UPON THE SUBJECT, IN NORTH AND
SOUTH WALES RESPECTIVELY, AS ANNOUNCED IN
THE GENERAL REPORT (PAGE 203).

August 25, 1844.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND
OF HER MAJESTY.

LONDON:

BRADBURY AND EVANS, PRINTERS, WHITEFRIARS.

1844.

RC 495
844W

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT.

NORTH WALES.

AFTER completing the visitation of Asylums in Yorkshire and Lancashire, we proceeded, on the 25th of July, in pursuance of the instructions of the Board, into North Wales, for the purpose of inquiring into the condition and treatment of the Insane in that part of the Principality.

The aggregate population of the six Counties of North Wales, comprising an area of 3204 square miles, amounted, in 1841, according to the Enumeration Abstract presented to Parliament, to 396,320 persons*, and, assuming an increase since the last Census at the uniform rate of 1·334 per cent. per annum, the population of North Wales, in June 1844, was 412,385.

Area and population.

	Square Miles.	Population.
* Anglesey . . .	271	50,891
Carnarvon . . .	554	81,093
Denbigh . . .	633	88,866
Flint . . .	244	66,919
Merioneth . . .	663	39,332
Montgomery . . .	839	69,219
TOTAL . . .	3,204	396,320

No Lunatic
Asylum.

The Board are aware that there is not, at present, in North Wales, a single Lunatic Asylum, public or private.

Proposed Asy-
lum near Den-
bigh.

The County and Subscription Asylum about to be erected near Denbigh, for which a most eligible site of twenty acres, which we have inspected, has been munificently presented, at a cost of 2000*l.*, by Mr. Ablett, of Llanbedr Hall, is proposed to be built at first for 160 patients, of whom ten or twelve are to be Private Patients of the first class, fifty of the second class, and the remainder Paupers. The Counties of Anglesey and Flint have agreed to unite with Denbigh, for the purposes of the Asylum; and Committees of Justices of those Counties have been appointed, under the provisions of the Act 9 Geo. IV. c. 40. The Magistrates of Carnarvonshire, Merionethshire, and Montgomery, have, for the present, decided against an union. We are informed that in the County of Carnarvon the subject will be again brought forward at the next Michaelmas Quarter Sessions. Private contributions towards the object have been made to the extent of 5000*l.* and upwards.

Extent of in-
quiries, and
Unions visited.

Our inquiries, which were, unavoidably, limited in extent, embraced parts of the following Counties, viz.: Denbigh, Carnarvon, Anglesey, Merioneth, and Flint; including the Unions of St. Asaph, Conway, Llanrwst, Bangor and Beaumaris, Carnarvon, Pwllheli, Festiniog, Corwen, Ruthin, and Holywell.

We were materially aided in those inquiries by the Deans of St. Asaph and Bangor, who have taken a very active interest in the subject; and we were indebted for valuable assistance to several Medical Gentlemen of eminence, with whom we communicated, especially to the Surgeons of the various Unions; also to the Clerks of the several Boards of Guardians, and the Relieving Officers, the latter of whom accompanied us, in some cases, upon our visits. We received from Mr. Richard

Poole, Clerk of the Peace for the County of Carnarvon, much useful information, and a variety of original documents, of some of which we have made use.

Before describing the cases which we personally examined, and the details we collected in the course of our circuit, we will state some of the results and conclusions to which our inquiries have led us, referring to cases subsequently detailed in illustration of our statements.

In order to facilitate a reference to the cases, we have added, in every instance, the name of the leading place under which they will be found in the sequel of our Report. With the same view it may be convenient to state the several places in the order in which we visited them, and in which they occur in this Report; they were as follows, viz.:—St. Asaph, Denbigh, Abergelle, Conway, Llanrwst, Bangor, Beaumaris, Carnarvon, Pwllheli, Tremadoc, Beddgelert, Corwen, Ruthin, Holywell, and Flint.

We have found, generally, that, in disposing of their Insane Poor, the leading consideration with Boards of Guardians, is the cost of their maintenance—that in many cases their safe custody, and the security of the public, are lamentably neglected—that little provision is made for the cleanliness and comfort of this most helpless class; and that medical treatment, with a view to the cure or alleviation of their mental disease, is almost wholly lost sight of. A few Pauper Lunatics have been sent, from time to time, from North Wales, to the Lancaster, Chester, and Liverpool Asylums; also, we believe, to a Licensed House, part of the House of Industry, at Kingsland, Shrewsbury; but these have been rare exceptions; and in a large proportion of the cases thus submitted to medical treatment in Asylums, the poor creatures have been sent at a late stage of their malady, and in a deplorable condition.

General result.

A few pauper patients sent to Lancaster, Chester, and Liverpool Asylums, and Kingsland, Shrewsbury.

Their condition.

In some instances, also, they have, after a few months' trial, been removed prematurely, as stated to us, upon the sole ground of expense.

Upon this subject we have received the following communication from the Governor of the Liverpool Asylum, which we introduce here as containing a striking illustration of the facts to which we have last alluded. His letter, dated August 2nd, 1844, written in reply to our inquiries, is as follows :—

Letter from
Governor of
Liverpool Asy-
lum.

“For some time past we have not had a Welsh patient in the institution. The few sent since my appointment, three years and a half since, have generally been in a very bad state—excoriations in various parts of the body, and a total disregard to the calls of nature, owing to their being fastened (as I have elicited from the persons who have brought them) by a rope, or chain, to the wall of a room. I never remember an instance where a Welsh Pauper Patient recovered, owing, no doubt, to their not having been brought under treatment at an early stage of the disease. When death has not put an end to their sufferings in the course of a few months, they have been fetched away by the Parish Officers, whose general cry has been that it was too expensive to keep them here. What has become of the poor creatures I have no opportunity of knowing.

(Signed) “GEO. TYRRELL, Governor.”

Weekly charges
at Liverpool,
Lancaster, and
Chester.

The weekly charge at the Liverpool Asylum is 12s., at Lancaster 10s. 6d., and at Chester 10s.

The following is the reply which we received from Lancaster :—

Reply from
Lancaster.

“The only Patient in the Asylum who is actually chargeable to any part of Wales is Ann Jones, or Evans, to Denbigh. She is a single woman, aged 25,

admitted September 23rd, 1843. She is now recovering, and will probably be discharged in a short time.

"Between June 24, 1843, and June 23, 1844, five other Welsh Paupers were admitted, viz. Jane Jones, Glin Triew; Evan Williams, Llanbeblig; Elizabeth Evans, Ruthin; William Roberts, Denbigh; and Mary Ann Griffiths, Llanasa. The first three of these have been removed to their respective parishes; and the fourth and fifth have been discharged cured. It is believed that all the six last-mentioned Patients had been for a length of time resident in this County, but had not obtained settlements.

(Signed) "FOR SAML. GASKELL, Surg. Super.
"RICHARD OLIVER, M.D.

"Lancaster County Lunatic Asylum,
"Aug. 3, 1844."

We append to our Report a list (marked A) of the Welsh Pauper Patients in the Chester Asylum, also a Return (marked B) from Haydock Lodge Asylum, near Winwick, in Lancashire. The weekly charge at the last-named Asylum, which was first licensed in January, 1844, and is the only Licensed House in the County receiving Paupers, is 7*s.*, with 6*d.* per week for clothing.

Return from
Haydock Lodge.

Weekly charge
for paupers.

The Return from Haydock Lodge was accompanied by a letter from the resident Proprietor, from which the following is an extract:—

Letter from
resident Pro-
prietor.

"HAYDOCK LODGE, Aug. 3, 1844.

"Agreeably to your desire, I forward the particulars of the Welsh Lunatic Paupers now in this Asylum. I could obtain no satisfactory account of the duration of the malady.

"The cases would appear to have been removed here more with a view to lessen the cost, than from any other desire. Eight of the cases have been brought

from other Asylums, and nearly all of them are of long standing.

(Signed) "CHAS. MOTT."

Reply from
Gloucester.

In respect to the Gloucester Asylum, we have received the following reply to our inquiries from Dr. Hitch, the Resident Medical Superintendent :—" We do not receive any Pauper Lunatics but the Paupers of our own County. We have had several Welsh Insane, but they were people above, *just above*, the condition of pauperism, whom we placed in our Charity Wards."

Expense the
paramount con-
sideration with
guardians.

As one of many instances in proof of the statement that, in determining the question whether or not a Pauper Lunatic shall be sent to an Asylum, the paramount consideration with some Boards of Guardians is the expense, we may mention the case of Catherine Williams, whom we visited, and who is consigned to the care of a small farmer, named Edward Gray, at Bryniadawn, Llandegfan, near Beaumaris. The sum hitherto paid by her parish (Beaumaris) has been 7s. or 7s. 6d. weekly; and, when it was proposed very recently to send her to Haydock Lodge Asylum, Edward Gray's wife consented, on the part of her husband, as stated to us by him, to a reduction of the weekly charge to 5s.;—the result of which was, that she was left, for the present at least, under their care, and *that* although an order and medical certificate had been obtained for her removal. Catherine Williams is thirty-eight years of age. She is stated to have been first attacked with decided Insanity four or five years ago. She was about three years ago sent to the Chester Asylum, from which she was removed, unimproved, after only six months' trial, since which she has been farmed out, as above-mentioned. She is a decided Lunatic, and was entered in the Poor-Law Return for 1843, as "dangerous to others," and "of dirty habits." A harmless idiot, Ellen Davies, sixty-six years of age,

Case.

is also farmed out with the same Edward Gray, at 2s. 9d. per week, besides clothes. Both these women appeared to be fairly accommodated; and to be treated with kindness.

We may here observe that the present weekly payment for Catherine Williams is more than double the average amount paid by Unions, generally, for their Insane Poor boarded with strangers. It may be convenient in this place to introduce some details on this subject, collected from the Returns of Pauper Lunatics made under the New Poor Law Amendment Act, in August, 1843.

Pauper lunatics and idiots, their numbers, places of residence, and cost of maintenance.

In the St. Asaph Union, in which there were thirty-eight Lunatics and Idiots, *three of whom only were in Asylums*, ten in Workhouses, and *twenty-five with friends and elsewhere*, the average weekly payment for the last class was 2s. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. With the exception of one special case, to which we shall hereafter allude, in which 6s. per week was allowed, the largest sum paid weekly for Pauper Lunatics boarded with friends or relations, was 3s. 6d. and the lowest 1s. 6d.; whilst the weekly payments for those farmed out with strangers varied from 4s. 6d. down to 1s.

St. Asaph Union.

In the Conway Union, with twelve Lunatics and Idiots, *all of whom were boarded with friends or elsewhere*, the average weekly payment was 2s. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. The sums paid for those under the care of relations varied from 2s. 6d. as the maximum, down to 1s. 6d.; and for those with strangers, from 3s. 9d. down to 2s.

Conway Union.

The Bangor and Beaumaris Union contained forty-six Insane Poor, of whom *two only were in Asylums*, and *the rest, forty-four in number, boarded out*, at an average weekly cost of 2s. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. The maximum amount paid to relations was 4s., and the minimum 1s. In respect to the Pauper Lunatics placed with strangers,

Bangor and Beaumaris Union.

with the exception of one special case, that of a female at Beaumaris, formerly a governess, for whom 8s. was allowed; and that of Catherine Williams, at Llandegfan, above mentioned, the highest weekly payment was 5s., and the lowest 1s. 6d.

Pwllheli Union. The number of Lunatics and Idiots belonging to the Pwllheli Union was forty-one, of whom one was in the Workhouse, and the remaining *forty boarded with friends and elsewhere*, at an average weekly cost of 1s. 10½d. The weekly sums paid to relations varied from 3s. down to 9d.; and to strangers from 4s. down to 1s.

Festiniog Union. In the Festiniog Union there were nineteen Pauper Lunatics, one of whom (a case to be noticed) was in the Workhouse, and *eighteen boarded out*, at an average weekly cost of 1s. 6¼d. The weekly payments to relations varied from 3s. 6d. down to 6d.; and to strangers from 5s. down, in one instance, that of a useful labourer, to 4d.

Corwen Union. The number of Pauper Lunatics belonging to the Corwen Union was twenty, of whom *one only was in an Asylum*, six were in the Workhouse, and the remaining *thirteen boarded out*, at an average weekly cost of 2s. 1¼d.

Ruthin Union. The only other Union which we shall notice is that of Ruthin, in which the number of Lunatics and Idiots was thirty-one. Of these *three only were in Asylums*, six in the Workhouse, and *twenty-two boarded out* with friends or elsewhere, at an average weekly cost of 2s. 3½d.; the maximum weekly payment to relations being 3s., and minimum 1s. 6d.; and the payments for those farmed out with strangers varying from 5s. per week down to 10s. per quarter.

Summary statement. It will be seen by the above statement, that out of 207 *Lunatics and Idiots*, belonging to seven Unions, *nine only were in Asylums, twenty-four in Workhouses,*

and 174 *boarded out*, at the rates we have mentioned, *with their friends and elsewhere.*

The practice in regard to clothing is not uniform. In some Unions the parties having the charge of the Lunatics undertake to provide them with clothes. The general custom, we believe, is for articles of clothing, or small sums for the purpose, to be supplied, in the way of casual relief, by order of the Board of Guardians, upon application being made to the Relieving Officer.

Clothing.

It must be observed that many of the Insane Poor, for whom very small sums are allowed, are of a quiet, harmless class, and capable of partly maintaining themselves by their labour; and that, in respect to some of those under the care of friends, the weekly payments can only be considered as contributions towards their maintenance.

Some of the insane capable of useful labour.

Some pauper lunatics partly maintained by relations.

Making, however, every allowance for these considerations, we are satisfied, from our observations and inquiries, that, although many are kindly treated and properly taken care of, the condition of a considerable proportion of the Pauper Lunatics boarded or farmed out is bad, in many cases most miserable, and in nearly all such as to deprive them of the means or probability of cure by proper medical treatment.

General condition of those boarded and farmed out.

In fixing the amounts of weekly payments, the Guardians of some Unions, as we were informed, take into account the casual relief which the poor Lunatics and Idiots may obtain by begging, which appears in some districts to be not uncommon. We were told by Mr. Prichard, of Beddgelert, clerk to the Guardians of the Festiniog Union, that the practice of rambling about begging had not been so common of late in that Union as formerly.

Practice of begging taken into account in fixing amount of allowance by parish.

We may here notice, as a striking instance of a wandering, houseless Idiot, the case of John Hughes, at Llanrwst, to whom 6*d.* per week only is allowed, with

Case of a houseless idiot.

shoes, and articles of clothing occasionally. We were told by the Relieving Officer, who brought John Hughes to us, that he was perfectly contented, and had refused to accept more than 6*d.* a week. This poor, half-witted creature wanders about at all seasons, without a home, begging by day, and sleeping at night in out-houses, or any place of shelter.

Want of visitation.

The next subject to which we shall advert is the want of any regular medical or other visitation.

Visitation no part of duty of Union Surgeons.

It is no part of the duty of the Surgeons of Unions, who, we have reason to believe, generally display much zeal and assiduity in the discharge of their office, to visit the Pauper Lunatics, unless their attendance is called for by bodily sickness, or their services, as is the case in some instances, are required for the purpose of making the annual returns under the New Poor Law Amendment Act. Neither are any steps taken, as a matter of duty or regulation by the Relieving Officers, or Guardians, to ascertain the condition and treatment of the Insane Poor. They are in general visited only upon occasions of application being made for casual relief, in the way of clothing or otherwise. There are exceptions to this, but we may state generally, that the Pauper Lunatics, more especially in the country districts, are consigned almost entirely, from year to year, to the persons who have contracted for their maintenance. It was admitted to us by some Relieving Officers, that Pauper Lunatics might possibly remain in certain cases unvisited, and their condition unknown to the Guardians, for many months, or even for years.

No steps regularly taken by Parish Authorities to ascertain the condition and treatment of insane poor.

May remain unknown for years.

Extent of districts, and arduous nature of duties of medical officers of unions.

We must not omit here to state, in justice to the Medical Officers of Unions, that the arduous nature of their ordinary duties, and the great extent, in most instances, of their Districts, would render it impossible for them to visit the Insane Poor, as such.

Present system

How far the visitations by Relieving Officers, or the

present system of management of the Insane Poor of North Wales, provides any security against neglect and cruelty, will appear by some existing cases, which we are about to mention, more especially those of Mary Jones of Llanrhaiadr, near Denbigh, to whose miserable condition our attention was drawn when at Ruthin; and those of Peter Powel, of Gronant; and Anne Hughes, of Rhyd Issa; detailed in a letter from Dr. Lloyd Williams, of Denbigh, received since we left North Wales. Extracts from this letter will be found in a subsequent part of our Report, immediately following the case of Mary Jones.

of management
no security
against cruelty
and neglect.

Reference to
cases.

It is stated in the General Report, that a large number of Insane persons entered in the Poor Law Returns as Idiots are plainly not Idiots properly so called. In proof of this we may adduce, amongst others, the cases last mentioned of Peter Powel, and Anne Hughes, and those to be subsequently noticed, of Richard Parry, St. Asaph; Ann Williams, Ruthin; and William Owen, and David Williams, Llanrwst, all of whom are Lunatics, more or less dangerous, and yet all of whom are returned as harmless Idiots.

Dangerous
lunatics re-
turned as harm-
less idiots.

Cases.

One of the evil consequences arising from a want of due provision for the Insane Poor in North Wales, is the detention of improper cases in Workhouses, as instances of which we may mention the following, viz.—Ann Williams, Hannah Griffith, and J. Edwards, at Ruthin; Susan Williams, at St. Asaph; and Robert Edmunds, Tremadoc. We have not included in the above list, Elizabeth Hughes and Jane Morris, both recent cases, and proper for an Asylum, whom we found in the Holywell Workhouse, inasmuch as they had both been admitted within a few days before our visit, and one of them only the previous night. In connection with this subject, we would draw the especial attention of the Board to the case of Mary Thomas, an inmate of the old Poor House at Carnarvon.

Detention in
workhouses for
want of Asy-
lums.

Cases.

Special case at
Carnarvon.

Many fatuous cases originally curable.

Urgent necessity for an Asylum, illustrated by

Recent cases.

Singular case near Ruthin.

Fatal consequences of want of Asylum.
Suicides.

Inquest upon a wandering pauper lunatic.

Pauper lunatics manacled and fettered in public streets.

Late case at Abergele.

Existing case at Edern, near Porthdinlleyn.

Dangerous

In addition to the cases already noticed, and many others of long standing, in the various Unions which we have visited, who were no doubt curable at first, but are now in a fatuous and hopeless state, for want of early treatment, the urgent necessity for an Asylum for the poor and middle classes in North Wales will plainly appear, amongst others, from the details we are about to give of the cases of Ann Davies, of Bronllan, Bettws; and Grace Williams, of Pengwern, both near Abergele; William Griffith, Carnarvon; Ann Jones, Tremadoc; and the singular case of a whole family near Ruthin. We would also refer, upon this subject, as evidences of the fatal consequences probably attributable to the want of such an Institution, and the neglect of timely care and treatment, to two Suicides, one of a private individual in Anglesey, and the other, Edward Roberts, a pauper, in the County of Denbigh. The first is detailed in a letter from Mr. Robert Jones, Surgeon of Carnarvon, and the circumstances attending the latter in certain Depositions of Witnesses at the Inquest, copies of which letter and Depositions (marked C. and D. respectively) are appended to this Report.

We have also to draw the attention of the Board to the annexed Depositions and Verdict (marked E) upon an Inquest, held a few days before our arrival at Denbigh, upon W. Williams, a Pauper Lunatic, who died suddenly, after wandering about the country and sleeping in outhouses.

Allusion was made in the General Report to the case of a Pauper Lunatic whom the Dean of St. Asaph had seen fettered and manacled in the public street. The particulars of this poor man's case, whose name was Evan Lewis, of Abergele, will be found hereafter detailed, also a similar case now existing at Edern, near Porthdinlleyn, in Carnarvonshire, of which we received information when at Pwllheli.

The following cases may be particularly noticed as

instances of dangerous Lunatics and Idiots permitted to be at large, viz., Griffith Williams and John Jones, reported to us when at Pwllheli; also Robert Jones and Evan Roberts, at Ruthin.

lunatics at large.

The destitute and neglected state of the Pauper Lunatics of North Wales will be evidenced, amongst others, by the cases of Hugh Jones, at Criccieth, near Pwllheli; Robert Griffiths at Pwllglenlas, and John Williams of Hendresela, both near Tremadoc; and Joseph Owen of Llanfrothen, in the Festiniog Union, now in the Chester Asylum. The particulars of the last case we learnt when at Beddgelert.

Cases of destitution and neglect.

The general treatment of the Insane Poor in some parts of North Wales, even in the neighbourhood of large towns, will be illustrated by the following extract from a letter from Mr. W. C. Beattie, Surgeon to the Carnarvon District of the Carnarvon Union, written to the Clerk of the Peace, and dated May 31, 1844. The letter has especial reference to the Lunatics and Idiots of the Parishes of Llanbeblig and Llanfaglan. Mr. Beattie says:—"As to their general treatment I may mention that the Lunatics and Idiots of this part of the Union are either boarded at small farm-houses in the country, or with their relations in the town. Those in the country are much better treated than those in the town, and their general health is much better, as those in town, who reside in small cottages, having no private yard or garden, are prevented almost entirely from leaving the house; and moreover, as those persons with whom they live, when they go out generally lock them up, their situation must be lonely indeed, and likely, no doubt, to increase their aberration of intellect."

General treatment of insane poor in part of Carnarvon Union.
Stated in Letter of Mr. Beattie, Union Surgeon.

We may refer the Board, in proof of the correctness of the last observation of Mr. Beattie, to the case of Hugh Pugh at Carnarvon.

We beg to call the special attention of the Board to the case of Mary Jones, visited by us at Llanrhaiadr, as

Instances of atrocious cruelty.

one of atrocious cruelty ; also to those since discovered by Dr. Lloyd Williams, of Peter Powel, and Anne Hughes. To the above we may add that of Griffith Jones, mentioned in the General Report, some further particulars regarding whose case we learnt from Mr. O. O. Roberts, Surgeon, at Bangor.

Case of husband convicted of cruelty and ill-treatment of wife at St. Asaph, in 1839.

We have, also, been furnished by the Dean of St. Asaph with some Depositions relative to the case of David Thomas, of St. Asaph, convicted of cruelty to his Insane wife, discovered by the police in the year 1839. Copies of the material parts of these depositions (marked F) are appended.

Reluctance of poorer classes in Wales to part with insane relations.

Cases.

Immoral tendency of association of pauper lunatics with family in certain cases.

Reluctance to part with relatives, and prejudice against Asylums, likely to cease if institutions established in Wales.

Pressing importance of establishing hospitals for the insane in Wales.

There remain only one or two points to be noticed before we proceed to detail the cases which we have examined and collected. The first is, the reluctance which we have generally found exhibited by the poorer classes in Wales to part with their Insane relations, bowever troublesome and dangerous, and bowever disgusting their habits. Of this feeling William Lewis at Bangor, Jane Jones at Carnarvon, and, more especially, Hugh Roberts at Mostyn, near Holywell, furnish striking instances. The last case calls for particular notice, as one in which the association with the female part of the family, under the circumstances to be hereafter described, cannot but have an immoral tendency, and be subversive of all notions of delicacy.

This reluctance to part with Insane relatives would, according to the best opinions, be greatly lessened, and in time entirely removed, were Asylums established in North Wales, in which the Patients who speak and think in Welsh, could be treated and attended by those acquainted with their habits and language, and capable of ascertaining their wants.

Viewing the subject with reference to the paramount objects of treatment and cure, the result of our inquiries, and the concurrent opinion of all intelligent men with whom we communicated, have impressed upon us the

strong conviction that the establishment *in Wales* of Hospitals for the Insane Poor and Middle Classes of that country is of the highest and most pressing importance.

We include the Middle Classes, inasmuch as many Pauper Lunatics in Wales, as in England, are reduced to pauperism as a consequence of their malady; and further, because Welsh is the language in which a considerable proportion speak and think. Their physical wants cannot be adequately attended to, nor their mental state duly watched and ascertained in Asylums wherein the Medical Officers and Attendants are not familiar with the Welsh language. We give this, not as our own opinion, but as that of all the Medical Men in North Wales, without exception, with whom we have conversed.

As to the numbers for which curative Hospitals should be provided in North Wales, a much more minute and careful examination than has hitherto been instituted, of existing cases and their early history, is requisite, before any probable estimate can be formed. Long neglect has caused an accumulation of chronic and hopeless cases, whose actual number affords a very inaccurate criterion of the tendency to Insanity amongst the population of North Wales. The Poor Law Returns, and the result of our inquiries show, that Insanity, in various forms, prevails to a great extent amongst the poorer and middle classes. A large number, however, classed as Idiots, are rather harmless Imbeciles, and more proper objects for domestic care than medical treatment in Asylums. It must be borne in mind, at the same time, that many chronic and hopeless cases admit of alleviation and improvement. We were informed of a singular fact, that, in the parish of Towyn, between Abergele and Rhyl, several entire families are idiotic or half-witted.

We must not omit to notice the fact, of which several instances came to our knowledge, that for want, as it is

Practice of
magistrates to
commit violent

and dangerous
lunatics to gaols
and houses of
correction.

Examples.

presumed, of proper receptacles for the Insane in North Wales, the Magistrates occasionally commit violent and refractory Lunatics to Gaols and Houses of Correction. As examples of this we may refer to Richard Williams, Beaumaris; Griffith Williams, Pwllheli; and Benjamin Davies, in the Holywell Workhouse.

We proceed to lay before the Board the particulars of some of the cases which we personally visited and examined, together with the details of others which we collected from authentic sources.

ST. ASAPH.

Details of cases.

We visited the Union Workhouse in company with the Dean of St. Asaph. Amongst the inmates were several Insane persons, Idiots, and Imbeciles, whose cases, with the exception of the two following, did not appear to us to call for especial notice.

Cases visited
and examined.

(1.) *Susan Williams*, 18.—Weak-minded from infancy, lately Epileptic. Quarrelsome, and at times dangerous. Recently threatened to kill with a knife any one who offended her. Has broken windows, and struck the Matron with a stone.

(2.) *Richard Parry*, 32.—Epileptic and decidedly Insane. Said to have been always weak-minded. During fits, which occur about monthly, and to which he has been subject from childhood, violently convulsed, but not now at such times dangerous to others. A powerful, athletic man, formerly a farm labourer. Previously to his admission into the Workhouse in December, 1841, subject to frequent paroxysms of furious Mania. Easily excited, and occasionally violent. Used to be frequently restrained, and was twice, for short periods, placed under the care of Samuel Davies, at Abergale, a powerful man, (and, as we were informed, of indifferent character,) the only person in the place who would

take charge of him, and who was allowed a guinea a week by the parish. Said to have been harshly treated by Samuel Davies. Was once in the Chester Asylum. Removed, after a few months, back to Abergelle. Since he has been in the Workhouse, and kept upon low diet, he has been employed, and generally harmless. A short time ago, however, after a dispute with a feeble old man, he lifted him up and placed him upon the stove in the Day-room, in which there was, fortunately, at the time, a very small fire.

DENBIGH.

Accompanied by Mr. P. N. Roberts, one of the Union Surgeons, visited, Cases visited
and examined.

(1.) *Emma Jones*, Castle Hill, 25 years of age, single.—Boarded with poor relations, at 2s. 6d. per week, including clothes. Subject to Epileptic Fits since four years old. On approach of fits, which are very frequent, troublesome, and dangerous to herself. Requires constant watching, amongst other things to prevent her from falling into the fire. Intellect said to have been always disordered. When opposed will seize anything at hand and threaten to strike. Occasionally tied to her chair by a handkerchief. About five years ago struck at her mother with a fork. Never in an Asylum. Whole family, consisting of Emma Jones, her father, and sister and her husband, sleep in the same room. Apparently treated with kindness.

(2.) *Margaret Jones*, Highgate, 30, single.—Boarded with sister, a widow, at 6s. per week. Described in Poor Law Return for 1843 as “Lunatic.” “Insane eleven years.” “Very unruly at times, and requiring much attendance.” An ordinary case of Mania. About two years ago violently assaulted her sister, and was placed under restraint. Mr. Roberts

stated to us that he had seen Margaret Jones in a state of violent excitement, and dangerous, and that she had been Insane ever since he knew her, viz. five or six years. Upon the occasion of the sister applying, two years ago, to the Guardians, for an increased allowance, the case was referred to Mr. Roberts, who, after consulting Dr. Lloyd Williams, reported to the Board that Margaret Jones was not a fit subject for a Workhouse, and ought to be sent to an Asylum. The Guardians then arranged with the sister to take charge of her.

Mr. Robert Roberts, another of the Union Surgeons, took us to see

(3.) *Edward Lloyd*, Post Office Lane, 21.—Boarded with his father, a joiner, at 2s. 6d. a week. First attack of Insanity, May, 1840. Became gradually worse. Sent to Chester Asylum, 5th November, 1840, and removed at the end of nine months, as was considered, in an improved state. Sulky and morose. Frequently violent and dangerous; has been so four or five times during the last six weeks. Subject to sudden fits of passion, during which he seizes knives, and requires to be disarmed. Three weeks ago, without provocation, attacked one of the family with a knife. Was placed under restraint, and has since, from time to time, been confined at night by a belt and muffs, in order to keep him quiet, and for the protection of his family. The father, mother, two sisters, and a brother, sleep in the same room with him, which contains three beds, and is crowded and close. We found the poor mother in bed, sinking from phthisis. She is said to be the only one of the family possessing any influence over E. L.

With Dr. Cumming and Dr. Lloyd Williams we visited

(4.) *Ann Storey*.—First affected with Insanity after the death of her husband, who was drowned while bathing about four years ago. For a short time in Gloucester Asylum. Wild and incoherent, with strong

delusions. Does not recognise her mother, by whom she is maintained.

(5.) *Lucy Lloyd*.—Formerly a servant in Dr. Lloyd Williams's family. Case of intermittent Mania. Melancholy and desponding. Living with her daughter. Dr. Lloyd Williams stated to us his opinion that, although not curable, her case admitted of alleviation.

Mr. P. N. Roberts drew our attention to the cases of—

(1.) *John Roberts*, of Groesbach.—Lately committed to Ruthin gaol, for an assault. Decidedly Insane. Cases reported.

(2.) *Humphrey Owen*.—A joiner. Addicted to drink, and Insane. Lately found by the police, wandering about Denbigh, in an excited state. Taken by order of a Magistrate to the lock-up-house. Mr. Roberts was directed to see him, and reported him Insane, and a proper subject for an Asylum. After two days he became very violent, and was placed in a strait-waistcoat. An order was then made for his removal, and he was, the same day, sent to Haydock Lodge Asylum.

*ABERGELE.

(1.) *Anne Davies*, 18.—Daughter of a labourer at Bronllan, Bettws, four or five miles from Abergele. Cases visited and examined.
Mr. J. Williams, one of the Union Surgeons, accompanied us to the cottage on the 29th of July. Anne Davies had been attended by Mr. Williams, who in a return to the Board of Guardians, in August, 1843, reported the case as one of "Mental Affection," connected with bodily disease. In October following, at the mother's request, Mr. Williams left with her a certificate that her daughter "required medical attendance, and that the Dispensary at Denbigh, or the Workhouse Hospital, was the proper place for her, otherwise she would become a permanent burden on the Parish." This

certificate, as the mother stated to us, was shown by her to the Overseer. No steps were taken for the poor girl's relief. She was, when we saw her, evidently Insane; and her mother expressed the greatest anxiety that she should be sent to an Asylum. First attacked four years ago. Previously quick and intelligent. Wanders about in a maniacal state. At Mr. Williams's request we furnished him with a certificate, strongly recommending her removal to the Denbigh Infirmary. We have been very recently informed by him, that the subject was under the consideration of the Board of Guardians, but that nothing had been done.

(2.) *Grace Williams*, about 35.—Wife of a small farmer at Pengwern, near Bettws. At the request of Mr. Philips, the Vicar of Bettws, we accompanied Mr. Williams and himself to the cottage. In one bed was the poor creature in a maniacal state, and in another, in the same room, her sick husband. She had been cheated and robbed by a fortune-telling gipsy, under pretence of curing her husband, and transferring a supposed curse from him to other parties. Compunction, and disappointment at the failure of the charm, and loss of property, had produced a shock which suddenly deprived her of reason. So gross were the ignorance and superstition of the villagers, that they all believed her to have been bewitched by the gipsy woman. We have been since informed by Mr. Williams that, subsequently to our visit, Grace Williams became very violent, and, for want of a Lunatic Asylum, was sent to the Denbigh Infirmary. The accounts we have recently received of this poor woman, from Dr. Lloyd Williams, are very satisfactory. She had become tranquil, and her delusions were fast vanishing.

Case reported.

Evan Lewis, 47, farmer. — When about thirty years of age, reduced in circumstances, enlisted as a soldier, and went to the East Indies. On his return to England became insane, and was sent to the Liverpool

Asylum: Escaped, and was found near Holyhead in a maniacal state. Brought to Abergele, and for many years under the charge of J. Lewis, a shoemaker, at 6s. per week. In miserable condition—ill-fed and ill-clothed—constantly under restraint, handcuffed and leg-locked, and in that state permitted to wander about Abergele and the neighbourhood. At length, owing to the interference of the Dean of St. Asaph, in April, 1841, sent to the Chester Asylum, where he is now confined.

CONWAY.

(1.) *Robert Thomas*, 28. — Formerly a gardener. Cases reported. First attack of Insanity about four years ago. After a few months became chargeable to the parish, and was sent to Chester Asylum for about six months. Boarded with his father at 1s. per week. Harmless, and employed in a garden. Mr. Robert Hope Jones, one of the Union Surgeons, stated his opinion, that Robert Thomas had been removed too soon from Chester, on the score of expense.

(2.) *Mary Hughes*, 50. — (Not chargeable, but occasionally relieved). Wife of a labourer at Gyffin. Six or seven years ago attacked with Mania. Sent to Chester Asylum about the same time with Robert Thomas. Remained there nine months. Reported incurable and removed. Lives with her husband. Strolls about the town and country. Violent and abusive in language and gesture, but not dangerous.

LLANRWST.

With the Relieving Officer, saw,

Cases visited
and examined.

(1.) *John Hughes* (previously noticed). — Allowed sixpence a week by Parish. No home. Rambles about, begging for food, and sleeping in outhouses. Clothed partly by the Parish, and partly by charitable persons.

(2.) *David Williams*, 44. — Boarded with his mother at 1s. 3d. a week. Formerly a shoemaker. First affected in mind upon his father's death, fifteen years ago. Has been at times very violent, and a source of alarm to his family; the neighbours have been sometimes called in to protect the mother from his violence. Once seized a knife, and was disarmed by his brother. Apparently treated with kindness. His family were very anxious that he should be sent to an Asylum, for which Mr. W. Hughes, Union Surgeon, thinks him still a proper object.

(3.) *Hugh Ellis*, 52. — Weak-minded from birth, and harmless; comfortably boarded with a relation at 3s. per week.

(4.) *Richard Jones*, 9. — Imbecile. Boarded with parents at 1s. 6d. per week. Well-clothed, clean, and kindly treated.

Also saw at Mr. W. Hughes's, Union Surgeon,

(5.) *William Owen*, 25, watchmaker. — Boarded with a cousin at 4s. per week. Case of periodical Mania, and, in Mr. Hughes's opinion, a fit subject for a Lunatic Asylum.

BANGOR.

Cases visited
and examined.

Accompanied by Mr. E. Y. Griffith, Surgeon, visited,
(1.) *Zechariah Williams*, Brick-street, 23, sailor. — Boarded with his father, a labouring man, at 2s. a week. First attacked with Insanity in January last, when at sea. Stated by the brother to be gradually improving, and to be harmless and inoffensive. On the other hand, represented to us by Mr. O. O. Roberts, Mr. Williams, Clerk to the Guardians, and J. Lansborough, a Policeman, as quarrelsome and violent. Three weeks ago out all night, and furiously assaulted a man. The night before our visit was found fighting

in the street. Constantly watched by the Police as a necessary preeaution.

(2.) *William Lewis*, Pendre, 51, stone-mason.—Wife and family, consisting of a son (who, when in full work, can earn about 10*s.* a week), a second son, eighteen years of age, imbeeile ; and two daughters, one grown up, and kept at home to look after her father. Allowance by Parish, 5*s.* weekly. Upon this pittance, and the precarious earnings of the son, the entire family have to subsist, and pay house-rent. W. L., after an injury in the head, at the end of last year, became insane and violent. Turned his family out of doors about three months ago. J. Lansborough, Policeman, called in by the daughter ; found William Lewis brandishing a poker or other iron weapon, and threatening to knock out the brains of any one who entered the house. Perfectly sober at the time. Placed under restraint, and copiously bled. Policeman again called in two months ago, and found him in bed raving mad. Occasionally tied down ; of filthy habits, and insensible to the calls of nature. A most distressing case.

(3.) *Mary Griffith*, 40.—Single. Boarded out at 3*s.* per week. Periodical Mania, and very incoherent. Never violent enough to require restraint. Second attack. First affected about six years ago. Never had the benefit of an Asylum.

Cases communicated by Mr. O. O. Roberts, Surgeon. Cases reported.

(1.) *John Jones*, Caesheriff.—Aged, and generally quiet. Boarded at 3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* a week, including clothes, with Grace Jones, eighty-three years of age, who treats him kindly. Insane many years. Once violent and dangerous, and confined in a place adjoining a cow-house, upon a farm near Bangor, now in Mr. Roberts's occupation, and fed through a hole in the wall.

(2.) *Griffith Williams*, Bangor, publican.—Attacked with Mania about two years ago. Attended by Mr.

Roberts, who found him strapped down to his bed, and recommended his immediate removal to an Asylum. Saw him again in three months. He had become a violent and confirmed Lunatic. Removed then to an Asylum near Liverpool, where he died. Mr. Roberts is of opinion, that had there been an Asylum in North Wales, he would have been sent there in the first instance, and would have recovered.

(3.) *Griffith Jones*, a pauper of Llanwnda, (alluded to in the General Report). Formerly a respectable farmer. Found by Mr. Lewis Jones, late Union Surgeon in December last, at Felenheli, Aberpwl, at a house occupied by his daughter and her husband, who had charge of him. The chamber, in which there was no window, but only a loft door, was dark and close. Stench intolerable. Bed filthy. The poor Lunatic in a deplorable state, a moving mass of vermin. Mr. Lewis Jones advised his removal to an Asylum. Nothing was done, and this unhappy man was never afterwards visited by the Medical or Relieving Officers. The daughter and her husband were ejected from their dwelling in April last, and after remaining some days on the road side, in a kind of shed covered in with blankets, were removed to some place in the parish of Llandeniolen, where the wretched man died.

(4.) *David Abraham*.—Formerly of Tai-Meihion, Llanllechid near Aber, and now in Haydock Lodge Asylum. Farm labourer. First attack in March last ; left under the charge of a brother and sister, very poor people. His parish refused to make any allowance, on the alleged ground, as was stated, of his being entitled to a small sum of money. Neglected, and permitted to wander about the country in an insane state. A person was ultimately appointed to take charge of him for a short time. Became furiously maniacal, and was tied with a rope to the bed-post. After further sufferings he was ultimately, on the 3rd of May, sent to Haydock

Lodge Asylum, where we saw him. He was quiet and torpid, and had been mute. Upon being questioned by one of the nurses in Welsh, he gave rational answers, and showed a recollection of former occurrences. We have been since informed, that he has exhibited decided symptoms of improvement.

Information furnished by Mr. Hamilton Owen Roberts, of Cae Braich Cefn, for many years a Surgeon at Bangor. Mr. Roberts, at Colonel Pennant's request, in April last, examined into the cases of Pauper Lunatics in the parishes of Llandegai and Llanllechid. He reported them as generally under the care of friends, who from ignorance sadly mismanaged them. Upon symptoms of violence appearing, tied down with cords. No attempt at medical or moral treatment.

Cases detailed by Mr. H. O. Roberts.

(1.) *Mary George*, Llanllechid.—Boarded with her sister. Twelve years insane. Some years ago violent. Said to have been formerly neglected. Now generally quiet, and kindly treated. Occasionally restrained. When violent, tied with cords. Originally curable.

(2.) *Henry Lewis*, Penybronydd, seven or eight years ago brought to Magistrates at Bangor, cruelly tied down in a cart. Overseers stated that he had taken up a knife in a threatening manner, during a dispute. Perfectly sane at the time. Subsequently showed symptoms of Hypochondria, and latterly of decided Insanity. About a year ago, attempted to cut his throat. Said to be occasionally very violent. Would, in Mr. Roberts's opinion, benefit by an Asylum.

(3.) *A labouring man*, well known to be a Lunatic, and addicted to wander about, found drowned in February last, in the river at Aberogwen, near Penrhyn Castle.

(4.) *Richard Jones*, Maescreadoc, farmer's son, 30.—Insane nine years. When seen originally by Mr. Roberts, considered by him decidedly curable. Now in

a state of dementia. Has little knowledge of English. Was a proper subject for a Welsh Asylum.

(5.) *A young man*, 21 years of age, with his parents, in a miserable cottage at Bethesda. When visited by Mr. Roberts, was bound down to his bed with ropes round his arms, body, and legs, in which state he had been kept for several days. So confined to prevent his rambling from home. This was a very recent case. He soon recovered under Mr. Roberts's treatment.

BEAUMARIS.

Cases visited
and examined.

(1.) *Catherine Williams*, Llandegfan, already noticed.

(2.) *Ellen Davies*, Llandegfan, already noticed.

Information of Mr. Robert Wynne Jones, Surgeon.

Cases reported.

(1.) *William Evans*, 50, carpenter.—Neglected his business, ill-treated his wife, who died in November last. Drank hard, and affected with incipient delirium tremens. Became silent and melancholy, and on the night of 2nd of February last, cut his throat with a razor. Attended by Mr. Jones. As soon as he was in a fit state, was removed to Haydock Lodge Asylum.

(2.) *Richard Williams*, 30, tailor.—Sister insane. Some years ago escaped from the Liverpool Asylum. Convicted three years ago of an aggravated assault upon a child, and sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment. On his discharge, drank to excess, and became decidedly insane. Committed to Gaol in default of sureties to keep the peace. Reported by Mr. Jones as an improper case for a prison, and sent in June last to Haydock Lodge.

CARNARVON.

Attended by the Relieving Officer, visited,

Cases visited
and examined.

(1.) *Jane Jones*, Pool Hill, 46, Idiot, boarded at 3s. 6d. a week (besides clothes) with sister, who said that

her heart would break if she were taken away. Generally harmless, but when provoked, will strike with knives or any weapon at hand. Remains constantly in the house from choice. Bedding good and clean. House neat and comfortable.

(2.) *Janet Pritchard*, at Thomas Lewis's, labourer, Baptist-street. Weekly allowance, 3s. 6d., besides clothes. Forty-six years of age. Insane 6 or 7 years, and blind. Never in an Asylum. Apparently well treated.

(3.) *Richard Williams*, Pool Hill, 60, labourer.—Several times affected in his mind. Never sent to an Asylum. With his wife at 4s. a week. Melancholic and desponding. Never violent. Well taken care of.

(4.) *Hugh Pugh*, 45.—With his sister, Mary Evans, Palace-street, at 6s. a week and clothes. Insane from childhood. Surly and dangerous if provoked. Formerly under charge of his father, a pauper, at Maentwrog near Tan-y-Bwlch, where violent and restrained. Five years ago assaulted some gentlemen, and was removed to Carnarvon. Noisy at night. Sleeps in same room with sister, whom he sometimes alarms, but who is the only one of the family who can control him without restraint. Stated to have been formerly much neglected. Treatment improved since public attention drawn to the case by Mr. W. C. Beattie, Union Surgeon. Seldom goes out. When sister is absent, at chapel or elsewhere, Hugh Pugh is locked up.

(5.) *Mary Thomas*, 30.—Wife of J. Thomas, shoemaker, who occupies a room, rent free, in the old Poor-house, and to whom 3s. a week is allowed for maintenance and clothing of Insane wife. First attack about ten years ago after confinement. Recovered in three months. Several times subsequently affected in mind. Has been now Insane upwards of four years. Never in an Asylum, to which the husband, who is apparently a hard-working, industrious man, is most anxious that

she should be sent. Has had eight children, of whom all dead but two, who live with their unhappy parents in the comfortless and filthy chamber we are about to describe. The old Poor-house is a dilapidated building, consisting of a number of separate dwellings, erected on the side of a steep declivity, and forming a kind of lane. The lower part especially was close and confined, and rendered most unwholesome and offensive by various nuisances. Upwards of a hundred persons in this place were stated to have fallen victims to the cholera when it prevailed. In the worst part, in a chamber, we found Mary Thomas seated by the side of her husband, a sickly-looking young man. Everything about them presented an aspect of extreme poverty and wretchedness. Some old bed stocks were outside, having been removed into the open air to clear them from vermin. The bedding, which consisted of straw covered with dirty rugs, was on the floor. The unfortunate woman, who has been since her residence in this Poor-house occasionally unmanageable, had an anxious countenance, and was apparently in very delicate health.

(6.) *William Griffiths*, Smithfield, 44.—Formerly master of a National School in Anglesey. Latterly a ship-broker at Carnarvon. Attacked with fever in November last. Became delirious and violent. For some weeks required three men to restrain him. Has ever since been maniacal. Has made frequent attempts at self-destruction. Three months ago tried to set fire to his house. Mr. O. O. Roberts, of Bangor, was called in and recommended his immediate removal to an Asylum. This advice was not taken. Mr. Roberts was again sent for a few days before our visit, and finding W. G. in a state of furious mania, represented his case to the parish authorities, who appointed a man to take charge of him. The night previous to our visit the united force of three men was requisite to prevent his committing suicide. We found him calm

and tranquil. He expressed himself as extremely anxious to be sent to an Asylum, as well for his own cure as to relieve the misery of his wife and family.

PWLLHELI.

Cases communicated by Mr. Abraham Jones Williams, one of the Union Surgeons. Cases reported.

(1.) *Griffith Williams*, 28, shoemaker, of Llanbedrog. First attack of Insanity five years ago, when at his father's at Pwllheli. Attempted to destroy himself by cutting his throat. Mr. A. J. Williams was called in and found him furiously maniacal. Tied down with cords and confined by a strait-jacket. After two days got pretty well. Upon occasion of cutting his throat was taken for safe custody to House of Correction. Was previously a dangerous character and addicted to fighting. Had been subject to epileptic fits, on approach of which he was excited. Was subsequently violent and a general object of alarm. Frequently sent to House of Correction for assaults committed during fits of passion and apparent mania. Could occasionally follow his occupation. Often threatened to kill others, saying that being mad he was not responsible. Mr. Williams several times recommended his being sent to an Asylum. The parishioners objected on the ground of expense, and allowed his father a small weekly sum to take charge of him. He at length became so great a nuisance, and such a source of alarm to the inhabitants, that he was, in May last, sent to Haydock Lodge.

(2.) *Robert Ellis*, Rhiw, 54.—An Idiot of dirty habits. Boarded with sister at 2s. a week. Wanders about in a filthy state, covered with vermin, sleeping in outhouses. Much neglected, although strict orders given by Guardians, in consequence of complaints.

(3.) *John Jones*, 30. — Chargeable to Ceidio. Boarded with his wife at Tydweiliog, at 5s. a week. Insane five years. Second attack. Five years ago restrained by cords. Very dangerous when excited. When at Ceidio, two years ago, attempted Mr. Abraham Williams's life by throwing an iron spade at him with great violence while riding past. J. Jones had been previously excited by a dispute with another person. Thereupon, after having been confined for a few days in the workhouse, committed to Carnarvon Gaol, where he was frequently restrained, during six months, at the expiration of which he was placed under the care of his family. The case had been discussed at the Board of Guardians, and the sole objection urged against sending him to an Asylum was the expense, Ceidio being a small parish.

(4.) *Thomas Parry*, Edern near Porthdinlleyn, 37.— Insane thirteen years. Boarded with friends at 3s. per week. Never in an Asylum. Dirty and badly clothed. Wanders about the village with his legs chained, and occasionally handcuffed. Has done so for many years past. Has been frequently seen in that condition during six or seven years past, and once within the last six weeks, by Mr. Williams.

TREMADOC.

Case visited. With Mr. Rowland Williams, Surgeon, visited *Robert Griffiths*, 45. With his feeble and aged father, Griffith Pritchard, a pauper, at Pwllglenlas, half a mile from Tremadoc. Cottage of the meanest description. One shilling per week allowed to the father, and 9d. a week paid by the Parish to Mary James, a poor woman, living in a neighbouring cottage, to bake and wash for G. P. and his son. The father makes 3l. or 4l. per annum, by underletting some meadow land. He

occupies the cottage and a bit of garden. Robert Griffiths first attacked with insanity twelve years ago, after a hard day's work in the hayfield; never in an Asylum. At first violent and dangerous, turned his family out of doors, and wandered about the fields without clothes. Placed under restraint. Now occasionally violent, but not restrained lately. Mary James, whom we examined, has a strait waistcoat ready to employ as occasion requires. R. G. was mute, and apparently fatuous.

Particulars furnished by Mr. Rowland Williams.

(1.) *J. Williams*, Hendresela, 25, idiot.—Farmed out at 6*d.* per week with Margaret Hughes and her son, W. Parry, (farmers.) Frequently seen by Mr. Williams—a miserable object, wretchedly clad, apparently ill fed and neglected. Limbs and hands contracted. Worked hard, and much exposed to cold in the winter for want of proper clothing. Cases reported.

(2.) *Humphrey Pritchard*, 33, weaver.—Formerly at Bwlchhderwyn, farmed out at 3*s.* 6*d.* per week, with Robert Roberts, at Garthmorthin. Properly taken care of. Insane five or six years. Religious melancholia. Once, as Mr. Williams believes, curable. Attended by him several times. Formerly excited, and sometimes confined by strait waistcoat. Said to have been at first tied with ropes. Was at an early stage of his disease under medical treatment. Escaped from home and rambled about. Now in a state of dementia.

(3.) *Hugh Jones*, Criccieth, 64.—Insane four or five years. Farmed out at 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. Quiet and harmless. Frequently moans, and is turned out into the street. Rambles from house to house, in a neglected and disconsolate condition.

(4.) *Ann Jones*, wife of a gardener at Felinecha.—Subject to maniacal paroxysms, during which she is violent and dangerous. A source of alarm to her husband, who recently consulted Mr. Williams about her.

He recommended her immediate removal to an Asylum, which the poor man cannot afford. Mr. W. mentioned the case, as showing the necessity for an Asylum in Wales.

Mentioned by Rev. J. Williams Ellis, of Brondannw, near Beddgelert.

(5.) *Robert Edmunds*, idiot, in Union Workhouse.—Subject to violent paroxysms of rage when provoked. Removed from Beddgelert to workhouse, in consequence of his violence, and the alarm of parents lest he should kill their children. Manageable while within walls of workhouse. Frequently escapes, owing to defective arrangements, and want of proper discipline. Rambles about the country to a great distance, and is brought back by the Police.

BEDDGELERT.

Communicated by Mr. Pritchard, Clerk to the Board of Guardians.

Cases reported.

(1.) *Lowry Owens* (female), 46.—Chargeable to Maentwrog. Insane about seven years. Suicidal, and refuses food. Formerly much neglected. Used to ramble about, sleeping in out-houses. Case represented to Board of Guardians, who placed her with a farmer at Rhygaduon, at 3s. 6d. per week, where she is well taken care of.

(2.) *Jane Williams*, 63.—Many years insane. A dangerous Lunatic, and of dirty habits. Boarded at Glanyrafon, near Festiniog, at 1s. per week.

(3.) *Jane Parry*, 57.—Chargeable to Llanfair. Insane nine years. Considered by Medical Officer dangerous to husband, with whom she is boarded at 1s. a week. Easily excited, and will then throw any missile.

(4.) *Joseph Owen*, 50.—In Chester Asylum. Be-

longed to the parish of Llanfrothen. For many years a lunatic, wandering about the country in rags. Would tear his clothes, and was always in a miserable condition. Allowance made to relations weekly for his maintenance, and clothing occasionally. Committed two years ago on charge of assault, with intent, &c. Found insane on arraignment, and sent to Chester.

CORWEN.

Visited the Union Workhouse with Mr. David Roberts, Clerk to Guardians. Informed of the following case:—

David Davies.—Once at Kingsland Asylum, Shrewsbury. Discharged cured, and remained well for nine or ten months. Suffered a relapse, and was admitted into Workhouse, February 13, 1844. Very troublesome; but for three or four weeks required no restraint. Noisy, rambling, and of dirty habits. Another pauper employed to watch him. Became very violent, and during three weeks under restraint, day and night. Case duly reported to Guardians. He was detained in the Workhouse until the 21st of May, when, in consequence of the interference of the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, he was sent to Haydock Lodge Asylum, where he died of apoplexy on the 6th of June. Case reported.

RUTHIN.

We received the fullest information, and active assistance, from Mr. Thomas Jones, Surgeon of the District. Saw and examined the four following cases in the Union Workhouse.

(1.) *Ann Williams.*—Has been an inmate of the Workhouse for four years and upwards. Belongs to Llanfair parish. A dangerous maniacal Epileptic. Has Cases visited and examined.

fallen into the fire several times. Returned as a harmless Idiot. Informed by Mr. Davis, Clerk to the Guardians, that he had been twice called in by the late Master of the Workhouse, to assist in placing Ann Williams in the refractory ward, for noisy and violent conduct, and threatening injury to others. She kicked and seriously injured the late Master. The Matron described her to us as very violent when opposed, and easily excited, especially after fits. Mr. Robert Nicholls, Union Surgeon, afterwards confirmed this account, and informed us that he had seen her in a state of furious mania.

(2.) *Maria Jones*.—Lunatic. A recent case when admitted a year and a half ago, and a proper subject for an Asylum. Noisy at night. Reported to have been, previously to her admission into the Workhouse, confined at home as insane, in a room at Denbigh.

(3.) *Hannah Griffith*.—Case of Monomania. A fit subject for an Asylum.

(4.) *John Edwards*, 55.—Idiot. Stubborn and refractory, and at times dangerous. Subdued by short diet occasionally. Washes the rooms, and assists in the house.

(5.) *Robert Jones*.—Not a Pauper. A dangerous Idiot. Maintained by his brother, a wheelwright. Irritable, and occasionally violent. We met him in the street, sulky and excited, after a quarrel. Once took up a poker, and threatened to kill Mr. T. Jones, who stated that he had seen him with his hands tied. Neighbours have complained of his being permitted to go at large. The above account was confirmed by Mr. Davis, Clerk to Guardians, and Hugh Jones, Relieving-Officer. Seen by the former throwing stones in a violent rage. Runs about with large sticks. Kept low by medicine.

Mr. Thomas Jones, in a letter dated 22nd of August, says, "I was about to write to you respecting Robert

Jones, whom I described as a dangerous Idiot. I saw him yesterday, and likewise to-day, in the street near his father's house, with his legs fettered by a strap, and his arms and hands secured by a strong web, something similar to cheese-filleting."

(6.) *Evan Roberts*, about 40.—Idiotic from birth. Boarded with his mother at 1s. a week. Violent and dangerous if provoked. Once, in a state of furious excitement, threw a paving-stone at Dr. Lloyd Williams. Seen by us wandering about the town. Has a maniacal expression of countenance.

We were informed by Mr. T. Jones, of the singular Case reported. case of a family (working farmers), near Denbigh, consisting of three brothers and two sisters, all subject to fits of intermittent Mania, and occasionally requiring restraint. They would, as Mr. Jones believes, probably be sent to an Asylum, if there were one in North Wales, upon the approach of paroxysms. Managed at home, by the husband of one of the sisters, a powerful and determined man.

Mary Jones, 34, single.—In the course of our inquiries at Ruthin, on the 5th instant, our attention was directed by Hugh Jones, one of the Relieving Officers of the Union, to the case of Mary Jones, boarded at 3s. per week, with her mother, at the village of Llanrhaiadr, near Denbigh. We received further particulars respecting her from Mr. Robert Nicholls, one of the Surgeons of the Union. The former had visited her within the last six or seven months, and the latter about four years ago; and it appeared from their statements, that she was, when seen by them, confined in the same place, and under circumstances similar to those in which we subsequently found her.

Atrocious case
of cruelty at
Llanrhaiadr.

Mr. Nicholls described her as in a wretched condition, filthy and disgusting. Some provisions placed by her side remained untouched, and near them were a chamber utensil and bowl, full of feculent matter.

Notwithstanding these circumstances, and the fact of the misery and wretchedness of this poor creature having come to the knowledge of two persons of respectable station, residing within so short a distance as Ruthin, her pitiable situation appears to have been veiled in mysterious secrecy ; although her habitation was in close proximity to the church, and contiguous to the public road.

We went to the cottage between eight and nine o'clock in the evening, accompanied, at our request, by Dr. Lloyd Williams, who interpreted to us the answers given to questions put through him.

In a dark and offensive room, over a blacksmith's forge, upon opening a bolted door, we discovered the miserable object of our search. The only window was closed up by boards, between which little air could find admission, and only a feeble glimmering of light.

In the middle of this loathsome chamber was Mary Jones, the Lunatic, on a foul pallet of chaff or straw ; and here she had been confined for a period of fifteen years and upwards. She was seated in a bent and crouching posture, on her bed of nauseous and disgusting filth. Near to her person, and just within her reach, was a cup into which she was accustomed to pass her excretions, which she emptied, from time to time, into a chamber utensil. This last vessel contained a quantity of feculent matter, the accumulation of several days. By her side were the remnants of some food, of which she had partaken. Within a few feet of the pallet, which was on the floor, stood a large earthen jar, nearly full of fetid urine, the produce of the three other persons in the cottage. It had, as stated by the mother, been placed there in order that it might, from the warmth of the room, undergo a more speedy decomposition, for the purpose of being used in dyeing wool. The stagnant and suffocating atmosphere, and the nauseous effluvia which infected it, were almost intolerable.

Long and close confinement had produced in Mary Jones's person the most frightful distortions. The chest bone protruded forwards five or six inches beyond its natural place; and there was an excoriation of the parts below. The legs were bent backwards, and the knee-joints were fixed and immovable. The ankles and feet also were greatly twisted and deformed.

She was emaciated in the last degree, her pulse was feeble and quick, and her countenance, still pleasing, was piercingly anxious, and marked by an expression of despair. Her garments were loathsome; and from her person was emitted a most offensive odour.

Her mother stated that she was thirty-eight years of age; that she was first attacked with insanity at twenty-one, when a servant in the family of the late Clerk of the Peace; and that she was at that time free from deformity, and (to use the mother's expression) "straight as an arrow."

It further appeared from the mother's statement that Mary Jones had been, for a short time, an Out-Patient of the Denbigh Dispensary;—from that period to the present, upwards of fifteen years, in confinement. She had been permitted, at first, to come down stairs during the day, but for about ten years past had been confined to the dismal chamber in which we found her, the window of which had been boarded during nearly the whole of that time.

Further interesting particulars relating to this melancholy case will be found in the following extracts from letters received since our visit from the Dean of St. Asaph and Dr. Lloyd Williams:—

"THE DEANERY HOUSE, ST. ASAPH,
"August 6, 1844.

"Dr. Lloyd Williams called upon me yesterday, to mention the case (*i. e.* Mary Jones) to me, and was very anxious that I should accompany him and Dr. Cumming there to-day, to take some steps for her relief;

and accordingly I rode over there this morning. Mr. Price, the Squire of the Parish, to whom the house belongs, and *who did not know of the existence of such a person*, went up with us. The offensive things were removed, but the general smell of the room fully corroborated the account given to me of the state in which you found her. We conversed with her for some time, and her answers given to Dr. Lloyd Williams, and interpreted to me, were perfectly rational. The conversation was in Welsh, but to this effect: ‘How long have you been here?’ She did not know, but a long time. ‘Would you like to go into the air?’ ‘Oh, yes; very much!’ (although I am no Welshman, there was no mistaking this answer). ‘Were you ever at the Denbigh Dispensary?’ ‘Yes; about eighteen years since.’ ‘Would you like to go there again?’ ‘Yes; very much.’ ‘Do you remember seeing me before?’ ‘Yes;’ —(putting out her hand to Dr. Lloyd Williams)—and several other questions of the same kind, in regard to her treatment, &c. *We* accordingly, as we have no Asylum, and as it would be dreadful either to leave her where she is, or to send her to an English Asylum, where the poor object could not express her wants, agreed that she *was not insane*, but a fit object for the Denbigh Dispensary, where there may be some hopes of restoring her, in some degree, to the use of her limbs; and where, at all events, she will have two most effective friends in Dr. Cumming and Dr. Lloyd Williams.

“I have seen many cases, but I never met with any to equal either the atrocity of this, or the example and incitement it affords to the object we have in view. There can be no reasonable doubt that she might have been restored if only commonly treated. She was at eighteen of a good figure, and of a comely appearance; the remains of which, as regards her head and face, are still very perceptible. Her voice is low, but sweet and clear. She was respected, I am told, in the services in

which she lived; and, if she could but have received the temporary assistance from an Hospital for the Insane, all this misery of, I fear, fifteen years' duration, might have been spared to her!

"I am quite aware that the steps we have taken are a little irregular, both as refers to the Lunacy Acts, and to our Infirmary regulations; but I hope you will agree that under these most painful circumstances we have not only acted for the best, but have done the only thing which could relieve our feelings from the great excitement which the dreadful state of this poor woman had created.

"The useful lesson which this case affords ought not to be forgotten.

"Close to a public road, within ten yards of the Church, in a cottage belonging to the Squire of the Parish, a really humane man, as his conduct to-day showed, if I had not otherwise known it; within a quarter of a mile of the Clergyman's home, who, with his wife and family, take an active interest in all that concerns the poor, *but who had never heard of her until this morning*, although the mother was well known to them—this wretched woman is confined without their knowledge. If the neighbours did know her state, they thought nothing of it.

(Signed) "CHARLES LUXMOORE."

"DENBIGH, Aug. 3, 1844.

"According to my promise to you, I went to Llanrhaiadr yesterday, accompanied by the Dean and Dr. Cumming. We found the old woman had taken care to prepare for our visit, as the room was made clean, and everything offensive was removed. I made arrangements with Mr. Price to have poor Mary Jones removed to Denbigh to-day in his caravan; but as the day is very wet, he has, I have no doubt, judged it better to delay sending her. I send you a rough sketch of her,

taken on the spot. We have a comfortable room prepared for the poor creature at the Infirmary. Mr. Roberts, the Union Surgeon, I have just seen. He never heard of the case till to-day.

(Signed) "RD. LLOYD WILLIAMS."

From the same.

"August 9, 1844.

"After I wrote to you yesterday, poor Mary Jones arrived at the Infirmary. She appeared, when I saw her last night, very cheerful and comfortable. I shall leave this open till I see her this morning.

"P. S. Mary Jones is very comfortable, and has slept all night. I cannot as yet discover any aberration of mind in her, but it is too soon to speak confidently."

From the same.

"August 11, 1844.

"Poor Mary Jones remains very comfortable. Her answers are very rational. Her faculties appear more in abeyance than totally lost. My belief is, that she has a good deal of *latent* faculty, and I do not despair of seeing it somewhat drawn forth."

From the same.

"August 13, 1844.

"Yesterday I heard some fresh details respecting poor Mary Jones; a sad tale of disappointed affection. A young man, now a clerk to an attorney here, says, that when a boy, he thinks about six or seven years ago, he used to see the poor creature at the window calling for food; and that it was the custom of the village boys, of whom he was one, to give her meat on the prongs of a pickel, with a long handle. After that the boards were more closely made up."

From the same.

"August 14, 1844.

"After I wrote to you yesterday, I gave her (*i.e.* Mary Jones) some money to buy calico (which I had the day before done to Grace Williams); and I was gratified to find that she took a needle and thread, and commenced sewing very tidily."

From the same.

"August 16, 1844.

"I have ascertained to a certainty that the room in which she (*i.e.* Mary Jones) was confined was *immediately* above the blacksmith's forge, and that she was confined altogether nearly eighteen years instead of fifteen."

Dr. Lloyd Williams, in his letter of the 11th of August, already quoted, details the particulars of two other cases of cruelty and neglect, to which allusion has been made. His statement is as follows:—

"DENBIGH, August 11, 1844.

"After I wrote to you on Friday, I had occasion to visit a patient at Llanasa, about fourteen miles from hence, and happening to relate poor Mary Jones's case before Mr. Parry, the Clergyman of the Parish, he mentioned to me the case of a Lunatic at Gronant, about two miles off, and close to the seat of Sir Pycrs Mostyn; and a lady, who overheard our conversation, told me of the case of a woman at Meliden, some three miles further. I determined to visit both.

"The first, *Peter Powell*, I found in a wretched shed, on a filthy straw pallet. He had been insane for twelve years, and occasionally very violent; no attempt had ever been made to restore him. He has been confined in his present state for three years or more. He has periodical maniacal paroxysms now, which require restraint. He appears to be in a perfectly hopeless

state ; but I have no doubt he was curable when first seized.

“The other, *Anne Hughes*, of Rhyd Issa, near Meliden, I found in a still more deplorable state. She was also in a miserable, though larger shed, in a sort of trough (rather than a bedstead) which did not admit of her stretching out her legs, which were contracted, though not so rigidly as poor Mary Jones’s. She lay in very filthy straw. Every ray of reason had long vanished, and she was reported to be very violent occasionally. She has been in this state, and bed-ridden, for several years, and insane above twenty years. Hers was also a curable case at its onset, I do not doubt. Both are put down as *Idiots* in the returns, but I look upon them both as decided cases of *neglected Insanity*. Your happy discovery of Mary Jones will, I doubt not, lead to more vigilant inquiry, and I feel confident that many deeds of darkness and of atrocity will come to light.

(Signed)

“RD. LLOYD WILLIAMS.”

In his letter also of the 16th of August, Dr. Lloyd Williams says :—“I yesterday heard from a clergyman (who had seen the poor creature), of the case of a man of the name of *Edward Parry*, of Hendre, near Nerrquis, which is three miles from Mold. He is not a Pauper. The poor fellow has been chained, off and on, for about twenty years.”

HOLYWELL.

Accompanied by Mr. T. Vickers and Mr. W. P. Jones, Union Surgeons, visited the Workhouse, and examined the three following cases, viz. :—

(1.) *Elizabeth Hughes*, 24.—Mania, with delusions ; a recent case. Admitted three or four days before our visit. Was in service at Liverpool. Incoherent ; occasionally noisy at night ; considered to be getting worse.

Cases visited
and examined.

(2.) *Jane Morris*, 25.—Admitted the evening before we arrived. First attack about seven weeks previous, while in service at Liverpool. Medically treated and apparently recovered. Suffered a relapse, became violent, and was sent to Workhouse. Rambling and somewhat incoherent, with delusions.

The above two cases ought immediately to be removed to an Asylum.

(3.) *Benjamin Davies*, 31.—Idiotic from birth. Formerly violent at intervals, and unmanageable; and according to the statement of the Governor, frequently required to be bound hand and foot. Escaped from Workhouse more than once. On the last occasion, 20th July, 1842, committed by Magistrates to Flint gaol for three months, for absconding with Workhouse clothes. Reported to have been placed in fetters while in gaol. Since his return to Workhouse quiet and tractable.

Mr. Vickers and Mr. Jones accompanied us to Mostyn, about five miles from Holywell, where we saw

(4.) *Hugh Roberts*, 24.—An epileptic Idiot. Boarded with his father, a collier, at the Pot works, at 4s. per week. A miserable object. Restless, moaning, and craving for food. Of a robust frame, and of a ravenous appetite. Person clean, but head covered with a disgusting eruption, caused, as was said, by knocking himself about during his fits, which are frequent, and when he is violently convulsed. Of filthy habits, and insensible to the calls of nature. Wretchedly clad, in a kind of petticoat or kilt, which, being torn, scarcely covered his nakedness, leaving his person sometimes indecently exposed. Sleeps in the same bed, about four feet wide, with two sisters, one nineteen and the other twenty-two years of age. Room seven feet long by six feet six inches in width, and not more than four feet six inches high at the back, from whence the roof rises to the opposite wall. The father, a boy, and girl, sleep in one bed in a small room adjoining, and open to the

former. But for the circumstance of there being no door between the rooms, that occupied by the Idiot and his sisters would be intolerably close and offensive. The cottage, one of the poorest description, was generally clean, having been whitewashed within no long period. The bedding also was clean and good for that class of life. Hugh Roberts never goes out. He appears to be kindly treated. His father and sisters, on being asked, said that they would not part with him.

We proceeded to

FLINT,

where, in company with Mr. Vickers, Mr. Jones, and the Relieving Officer, we saw

Case visited
and examined.

Charles Parry.—An Idiot. Brother to landlord of the Dee Hotel, Flint. Boarded at 5s. per week with a labouring man, named Beek. House clean and neat. Wife a respectable woman, and kind to Charles Parry, whom we found well clothed, and apparently well fed and properly taken care of. Sleeps in a small close place used also for other purposes. Bed not much more than five feet long, but board at foot said to be removed at night, and Charles Parry represented as having always been in the habit of lying with his body and legs bent. Seemed contented and comfortable. Fond of attending funerals.

To the above cases we could add many more, which we examined and collected in the course of our inquiries.

We have selected such as appeared most deserving of notice, and sufficient to exhibit the general condition and treatment of the Insane in N. Wales.

APPENDIX A.

CHESTER ASYLUM.

WELSH CRIMINALS. (MISDEMEANANTS.)

Name.	Age.	Date of Admission.	Residence.
Joseph Owens	52	September 23, 1840	Merioneth.
Thomas Morgan	30	January 17, 1842	Do.

WELSH PAUPER MALES.

Name.	Age.	Date of Admission.	Residence.
Thomas Evans	52	September 29, 1834	Montgomery.
Samuel Davies	34	„ 24, 1840	Hope.
George Catherall	30	January 7, 1841	Hawarden.
Evan Lewis	44	April 19, —	Abergele.

WELSH PAUPER FEMALES.

Name.	Date of Admission.	Residence.
Sinah Frances	October 24, 1838	Ruabon.
Mary Griffiths	July 11, 1839	Hawarden.
Mary Jones	September 8, 1840	Rhyddlan.
Margaret Jones	July 30, 1842	Saltney.
Elizabeth Bagshaw	August 8, 1843	Halkin, Flint.
Anne Hancock	January 6, 1844	Hawarden.

CHESHIRE COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM,
July 23rd, 1844.

APPENDIX B.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE WELSH PAUPER LUNATICS IN HAYDOCK LODGE LUNATIC ASYLUM, ON THE
3RD OF AUGUST, 1844.

Names of Lunatics.	Age.	Date of Admission.	Name of Union or Parish chargeable.	Form of Malady.	State when admitted, and by whom sent.	Present state of the Patient.
Thomas Williams,	45	1844. March 5,	Ruthin Union	Chronic Mania	Brought from Chester Asylum, where he is stated to have been several years, on account of the Guardians of the Ruthin Union.	No improvement.
Harriet Jones	24	March 5,	Ruthin Union	Melancholia	From Chester Asylum.	Improved.
Elizabeth Evans	27	March 6,	Ruthin Union	Melancholia	From Lancaster Asylum.	Improved.
Thomas Griffiths	52	March 25,	Wrexham . .	Epilepsy . .	Brought in by the Governor of the Wrexham Gaol, by order of the Justices.	Improved.
Edward Williams	40	April 5,	Bangor Union	Chronic Mania	Fetched from Hanwell Asylum, by order of the Guardians of Bangor Union.	No improvement.
Elizabeth Jones	66	April 28,	Wrexham . .	Chronic Mania	Brought from the Liverpool Asylum by the Governor of the Wrexham House of Correction, under order of Justices.	No improvement.
David Abraham	35	May 3,	Llanllechid, Bangor Union	Chronic Mania	Brought by Overseer of Llanllechid.	Improved.
Richard Williams	36	May 7,	Anglesey Union	Chronic Mania	Brought in by Dr. Roberts of Bangor, on account of Guardians of Anglesey Union.	Improved.
Griffith Williams	23	May 18,	Llanbedrog . .	Epilepsy . .	Brought by Mr. Owen of Llanbedrog.	Improved.
William Walsh	40	June 1,	Chester City . .	Chronic Mania	Brought in by Mr. Forth, Overseer, on account of City of Chester, from Chester Asylum.	Improved.
Joseph Evans	23	June 1,	St. Mary-on-the-Hill, Chester	Melancholia	Brought by Mr. Forth, Overseer of Chester, from Chester Asylum, in a very dejected state.	Improved.
Thomas Jones	33	June 4,	Justices of Flint	Chronic Mania	From Flint Gaol, by order of the Secretary of State.	No improvement.
Hannah Ellis	46	June 15,	Bangor Union	Chronic Mania	Fetched from Chester Asylum, very much debilitated.	No improvement.
Robert Bostock	40	June 28,	Wrexham . .	Acute Mania	Sent in by Justices of Denbighshire.	No improvement.
Sarah Davies	22	June 29,	Ruthin . . .	Melancholia	Brought in by Clerk of the Ruthin Union.	Very much improved.
William Evans	47	July 2,	Anglesey . .	Melancholia	Brought in by Overseer of Beaumaris.	No improvement.
Humphrey Owen	26	July 26,	Denbigh . . .	Melancholia	Brought in by Mr. Robinson, Police Officer, on account of the Churchwardens and Overseers of Denbigh.	No improvement.
*David Davies	40	May 21,	Parish of Gwyddelwyn . .	Melancholia	Sent by order of Justices of Merionethshire, in a very dejected state.	Died on 6th June.

Males 12; Females 5; Total 17.

CHARLES MOTT.

* The Surgeons' Report on this case was as follows:—David Davies died of Apoplexy. He had been, from his admission, in a state of great excitement. He was insensible to the calls of nature, and his was altogether a hopeless case.

APPENDIX C.

“CARNARVON, *August 3, 1844.*

“According to your request, I send you the particulars of the case of T. J., a farmer residing in Anglesey, about a mile from the shores of the Menai, opposite this place. I saw him first on Sunday evening, the 7th of May, 1843, and found him quite insane and dangerous. As it was late in the evening, I left him under the care of his friends, and visited him on the following morning, when I met several of his neighbours at his house. I recommended them to remove him as soon as possible to an Asylum, and, in the meantime, two men were appointed to watch him. In the evening of that day, however, he appeared so well, that the men were persuaded by him to go to an outer kitchen, while he took tea with his brother and sister, who had that evening come from Denbighshire to see him. He rose suddenly from the table while they were at tea, and saying he would return immediately, went to a room above the stable, where the servant men slept, got a razor, and cut his throat; he bled profusely, but did not cut the large vessels; he lived four or five days after this, but was in too weak a state to be sent to an Asylum. I have no doubt but he would have been sent to an Asylum on the Monday morning, had there been one anywhere near, and his life would, in all probability, have been saved.

(*Signed*)

“ROBERT JONES.”

APPENDIX D.

Extracts from the Depositions of certain Witnesses, taken before the Coroner of the County of Denbigh, touching the death of *Edward Roberts*, of Gresford, on the 24th June, 1844.

Thomas Hughes.—“On Saturday, the 22nd instant, I heard the deceased’s wife and children shouting murder. I ran to the house, and found the deceased had cut his throat. The wound was very large.

The deceased was alive. I found nobody in the house except the deceased. The deceased was lying in the chamber up-stairs. The deceased was a bad tempered man, very quick and sudden, particularly when he had had any drink. A very little would put him out of the way. The deceased went to his club feast on Friday, the day before. I have long known the deceased's family. His sister destroyed herself about nine years ago, and the mother ten years ago. He was low in his way, and kept very much to himself."

Margaret Roberts, daughter of the deceased.—"I slept in the same room with my father and mother. The latter went from home early in the morning. I heard no quarrelling between my father and mother. I heard my father talking the whole night; he spoke very loud, and sometimes muttered to himself. The beds were very near to each other. I never heard him talk the same way before, but have often heard him talk before when he had had drink; he did not sleep well. My father took his breakfast at eight o'clock to nine. He worked before breakfast, mending a pair of shoes. I went up-stairs, leaving my father standing with his back to the fire. In about five minutes my mother called out. I went down stairs two steps, and, hearing a scuffle, I cried out murder. I recollect now that my father said on Friday night (the night before) that his sister Mary had cut her throat, and he might as well do the same. My mother was lying on the walk outside the house, and father upon her. She was lying on her belly. She tried to get from him, and fell down on the floor. Blood was running from my mother's neck, and also her arm."

William Dobie, of Gresford, Surgeon.—"I attended the deceased professionally, in the month of September last. He had the typhus fever. It affected his head. He was very unmanageable. He was previously a melancholy man, having the marks of premature old age. After his illness I considered him imbecile, and affected with Insanity. I have had considerable experience in Insanity, having been Surgeon to a Lunatic Asylum for five years. I saw him repeatedly after his illness. On Saturday last I was fetched to the deceased's house. I found him dead.

"I have examined the wounds of the wife; she is doing well, and likely to recover. Had the deceased used one of his shoemaker's knives to his wife, from the situation of the wound, she would have been

killed. I again state, I considered the deceased having a decided tendency to Insanity before Friday last, and that he was Lunatic at the time he committed the act."

APPENDIX E.

Extracts from the Depositions of certain Witnesses taken before the Deputy-Coroner of the County of Denbigh, touching the death of William Williams, of Telpin, in the Parish of Llanynys, on the 22d day of July, 1844.

Elizabeth Evans, of Llanfwrog, sister to the deceased.—“I was at my father’s on Saturday morning, about seven o’clock, when deceased came home. He had been away from home for a week. He had slept in the outhouse at Court the night before. When he came home he told me that he was come to die. He said he was very ill, and complained particularly of his head. I put him in a bed, and he became very sick, and about an hour after he came home, he had a fit. I did not send for a doctor, but I sent for his father, who was working at Llanynys. He got home after deceased died, which was about twelve o’clock. He died in a fit. He was very low-spirited, but I consider he was able to look after himself. Deceased was in the habit of rambling about the country, and sleeping in the outhouses. I had never been speaking to the Parish Officers about taking care of deceased. I was very uneasy about him. About nine months ago he was very wild and unmanageable, and I have heard that he attempted to destroy himself. He has been very quiet since then.”

William Williams, of the Telpin, parish of Llanynys, labourer.—“I am father to the deceased, who was forty-two years of age. Deceased was not in the habit of having fits. About eighteen months ago, he went out of his mind. He was very wild at first, and attempted to destroy his mother, and he about the same time attempted to destroy himself. This was about twelve months ago. From that time to the present, he has been in the habit of rambling about the country; now and then he would get a day’s work, but he would not stay in his place. He would sometimes come home for a night, and then go off

again. About this time twelvemonth a neighbour found him sleeping in a wood close by. If he had come home he would have had a bed. I have been afraid of his doing something to himself, and have spoken to Mr. Jones, of Woodlands, and Mr. Smart, Guardians, and several others connected with the Parish, to take charge of him, but nothing has ever been done. He has always been about here. The Parish has never done anything for him. I did not go to the Parish when he was in that wild state, but when he took to rambling. About nine years ago, he was in the same state, and I got his Parish sworn to, and he was then attended by Mr. Thos. Jones, the then Surgeon to the Parish. He was removed to Mrs. Jones's, of Berth, and taken care of. He got quite well after that attack, and has been so to within about sixteen months ago. He was ill for about two years, and went rambling about as now. After being ill about one year and three-quarters, he was taken to Berth, and at the end of two months he got well. He has been complaining for a long time of being poorly; particularly of pain in his chest. I never complained at the Board of Guardians. I have spoken to the Relieving Officer, Hugh Jones, to get deceased taken care of. I never could get any of them to say whether they would take care of him or not. For three months last winter deceased worked at Mr. Evans's, Tyddyn-y-Caldnor, and during the remainder of the winter he slept at home. I have all along thought that it was not safe that deceased should be allowed to be rambling about as he did; and that was my reason for pressing the Parish to take charge of him."

Robert Nicholls, of Ruthin, Surgeon, Medical Officer of the Llanynys District of the Ruthin Union.—"I have attended deceased on two or three occasions within the last two years. The first time I attended him by order of the Relieving Officer, about twelve months ago. I found him Insane, and attended him once or twice after. I reported him as Insane, and advised deceased to take some medicine, but he declined, stating that he had been to Denbigh, with his sister, to a cunning woman, who told him not to take any, and that the truth would come out in a certain time. No steps were then taken by the Board. About three months ago, I was again sent up by the Relieving Officer. I believe it was a Board Day. I came up here and was unable to meet with deceased. He was not at home, and the family did not

know where he was. He had been rambling for several days. I returned him as absent from home. Nothing further was then done. I told deceased's mother to let me know when he came home, but she never did. I have also seen the father, and asked him whether his son was at home, but he said he was not. Upon the first occasion of my attending deceased (about twelve months ago) I was told by deceased's mother that he had twice attempted to destroy himself, and once endeavoured to destroy her. I believe I reported him 'Insane and Dangerous,' but I am not certain. Nothing, however, was done by the Board to my knowledge. From what I saw at the time, and having heard that deceased had had a previous attack of a similar description, I do not think he would have recovered. It was what is called Melancholy Insanity.

"I am of opinion that deceased died of convulsions, caused by a Disease of the Brain, which I think must have been going on for a considerable time.

"In conversation with the Relieving Officer upon the first occasion I recommended that deceased should be removed to a Lunatic Asylum, as I did not consider he was safe. This was in September and October last, and not on the first occasion of my seeing him."

Hugh Jones, Relieving Officer of the Llanynys District, in the Ruthin Union.—"I did not know deceased personally; in April last deceased's father came to me to request that something might be done for deceased, as he was not in his right mind. I asked if he was dangerous; he said he was. At the next Board I laid the case before the Guardians in writing, and stating that deceased was 'an Idiot and rather dangerous.'

"The Board ordered that the Medical Officer should report upon him. Mr. Nicholls stated afterwards that he had several times endeavoured to see deceased, but that he could not meet with him. I have never been applied to on any other occasion by any person respecting deceased. I should have laid it before the Board if I had. In September or October last, Mr. Nicholls spoke to me about deceased. I thought he meant a man in Llanrhaiadr parish, who had recovered, and did not make any further inquiry. If Mr. Nicholls had reported upon deceased, I should have acted upon it. I cannot recollect whether I mentioned the case to the overseers. I made several inquiries about

deceased, and in the beginning of April I went up to Telpin particularly upon this business. I have repeatedly asked William Williams, the father, where I could find deceased, and he said he did not know, but that he was in the neighbourhood. The Guardians never inquired about the case after the Board in April."

William Jones, of Pantglas, Llanynys, Farmer.—"I knew William Williams. I saw him on Thursday last in the morning. He was sleeping in my hayloft. I found him: he had nothing on but a shirt. I made him dress himself and gave him something to eat. He complained of being very hungry. I consider he was quite capable of gaining his living."

VERDICT.—"That William Williams died from natural causes, accelerated by the want of proper care and attention; and the jury are of opinion that the conduct of Mr. Hugh Jones, the Relieving Officer, is exceedingly reprehensible, and that the Guardians are blameable for not seeing that their orders are carried into effect by the Relieving Officer."

APPENDIX F.

Extracts from the Information and Depositions against David Thomas, of St. Asaph, Carrier, for cruelty and ill-treatment of his wife, Ann Thomas.

The information of the Rev. William Hicks Owen, of St. Asaph, taken on the 22nd day of August, 1839, before Us, Sir Henry Browne, Knight, and Edward Lloyd, Esq., two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Flint. "In consequence of the representation of Mr. Thomas Roberts, the Police Officer of St. Asaph, I visited the house of the said David Thomas, and found nobody in the house; but the daughter of David Thomas immediately made her appearance from the house of a neighbour. I desired her to show me her mother: she preceded me up-stairs, and in an upper room she proceeded to a door in one corner. The door was strongly fastened by a hasp and staple. She opened the door, and in a dark hole or closet I saw what at first appeared to me to be a heap of filthy rags. Upon

my speaking, a human being, which I believe to be Ann Thomas, raised its head and sat cowering, trembling, and moaning loudly on the floor, surrounded by filth, as I believe, for the smell and appearance of the hole or closet was exceedingly offensive. Her hands were apparently tied or strapped close to her body. She seemed to have either a strap or cord, or chain, tied around her middle, to which was attached a strong iron chain, one end being fastened to a staple or ring, driven into the wall of the hole or closet in which she was confined. There was no window to the hole or closet, and it did not seem to have been cleansed for some length of time. She appeared to be in an exhausted state from extreme ill-usage. She complained very much of not having sufficient food. I asked the daughter whether they fed her sufficiently ; she replied, ‘ Yes, but she will eat every hour of the day,’ or words to that effect. ‘ There is meat for her, sir, now on the fire.’ When I went down into the kitchen she showed me a small tin containing about half a pint of what appeared to me to be buttermilk, on the bars of the grate.”

John Wynne, of St. Asaph, Surgeon.—“ I accompanied the said Thomas Roberts to David Thomas’s house, and as soon as we got there, we went up stairs, and in a dark closet or hole we found Ann Thomas, with her arms confined by cords, and fastened to the farthest end of the closet by a chain fastened to the wall, and made fast to her back by a cord. She had neither shoes nor stockings on, and she complained of hunger ; and one side of her face was very black, and bruises upon her legs ; and she complained very much of her situation, and of her husband’s ill treatment. She was raving mad, and very much worse than I had ever seen her. I consider the ill-treatment she receives likely to aggravate her complaint, but I do not consider her to be in a fit state to be let at large.”

Thomas Roberts, of St. Asaph, Police Officer.—“ By the direction of Sir Henry Browne, Knight, one of Her Majesty’s Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Flint, I went to David Thomas’s house on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 20th and 21st days of August instant, accompanied by Mr. John Wynne, Surgeon ; and seeing nobody in the kitchen, we proceeded up-stairs, and in a corner of the room, in a dark closet, we found Ann Thomas, the wife of the said David Thomas. She appeared in a very great state of exhaustion, complaining most

bitterly of the ill treatment by her husband. She had a kind or in form of a strait-waistcoat around her waist, with her arms tied close to her body, from which there was a chain fastened to the wall; her face was one side black and her legs bruised; she had only on a bedgown and a petticoat, no shoes nor stockings. I called yesterday, the 21st instant; I found her in the same place, but the door fastened upon her with a piece of iron, and she had a strap tied around her legs, and the smell of the closet was most offensive: I unbuckled the strap that was around her legs.

SOUTH WALES.

It is customary in South Wales to place Idiots and Lunatics who become chargeable to Parishes, to board under the care of some Relative, or, if none can be found willing to undertake the charge, in the cottage of some peasant or poor farmer, to whom the small allowance of 2s. or even less per week, may be an inducement to become responsible for the safe custody and maintenance of the Insane person. The treatment these poor creatures may receive under such care is left to chance. Many are treated without particular harshness by their relatives or keepers, but are left to wander about without proper care. The degree of restraint that may be used is left entirely to the discretion of the keepers.

The following instances will serve to exemplify the condition of many of these persons :—

We visited *Priscilla Lloyd*, living with her parents in the outskirts of Haverfordwest. She is thirty-nine years of age, and is said to have become insane eighteen years since, upon the death of her brother, or a lover, who was drowned. She was in bed with her clothes on in an upstairs room in a cottage. She was very dirty in her person, and her toe nails, apparently from want of walking, had grown to a very unusual length. She raised herself in bed, spoke incoherently, got up and felt the wall, and immediately seated herself in the corner of the room, and took up a rope which was fastened to a ring in the floor, and commenced tying the ends of the

rope round her neck and wrists, as if this were the usual sequel of her quitting her bed. The bed was very dirty, the room was extremely offensive, and the floor very filthy, and the walls were smeared in places with excrement. There was another bed in the room, in which we were told the father and mother of this poor creature slept. She was still a pretty woman, and the Medical Officer of the Union considers her case one that might have been benefited by proper treatment. The Clerk and Relieving Officer were under the belief that this poor neglected being was properly taken care of.

Jane Cunningham, aged 50, has been insane thirty years. She resides in some wretched Almshouses. She was extremely dirty, as was her room, and she is quite unfit to take care of herself.

Elizabeth Richards, aged 57, has been in the Work-house. She now lives with her mother, the widow of a clergyman; and the parish allows her 2s. a week. She used to wander about all night. Although it is said that she is not allowed to be absent from home at night, it appeared that she generally is out all day about the streets without any food after her breakfast. If she does not come home at night, the mother said they hunted her up.

We visited another poor creature, *Elizabeth Prickell*, who is kindly treated, and kept very clean by her brother. She is losing the use of her lower extremities, from continually lying in bed.

Amongst cases of great abuse which came under our notice in South Wales, must be mentioned that of *Ann Abney*, who was taken on the 28th of November, 1843, to the Asylum of Dr. Gilliland, at Hereford, and died there on the 30th of January, 1844. She was sent from the Builth Union near Brecon. She was in such a shocking state when brought to the Asylum, that the Proprietor refused to admit her, and was only induced

to do so, from the earnest entreaties of those who took her. She had been kept chained in the house of a married daughter, and, from having been long kept down in a crouching posture, her knees were forced up to her chin, and she sat wholly upon her hips and her heels, and much excoriation was caused upon her chest and stomach by her knees when she moved. She could move about with velocity, and was almost always maniacal. When she died, it required very considerable dissection to get her pressed into a coffin.

Dr. Gilliland thought this wretched creature might be the same person respecting whom the letter from the Builth Union, which appears in the General Report (page 200), was written. We made some inquiries upon this subject, and a Magistrate of the County of Brecon promised to ascertain the fact for us. We have not heard from this gentleman, and we therefore conclude that they are separate cases.

At Hay we were informed by a solicitor of a Lunatic woman who has been cruelly treated by a relative. She is entitled to a small sum of money, and an application is about to be made to the Lord Chancellor in her behalf.

In the County of Caermarthen, about three or four miles from Lampeter, we visited *John Davis*, a Lunatic, and his Idiotic son. They live in a cottage with John Davis's wife, the mother of the Idiot, a good-looking woman, about fifty years old. The Lunatic is sixty-nine years, and the son upwards of twenty-one years of age. The Lunatic was insane before he married. The father and son are both occasionally violent, and the mother is obliged to restrain them. There were only two beds in the cottage, and the mother said she generally slept in the same bed with her son.

In the same County the *wife of Thos. Evans* has been insane, and violent and unmanageable fourteen weeks. She is left with her husband, who has been allowed 10s. 6d., but is now allowed 8s. a week. She belongs

to the Llandovery Union, and the Board has been very urgent to have her sent to an Asylum, but the Guardians of the parish have hitherto prevented it being done, on account of the expense, and the parish being poor.

In this Union *David Lewis*, a dangerous Lunatic, is allowed to be at large, and *Mary Williams*, who is of weak intellect, and has had a bastard child, is allowed to live with her aunt.

The Clerks of the Llandovery and Aberacron Unions think it a great evil that there is no Lunatic Asylum in South Wales. The expense of sending Paupers to England frequently prevents their being taken to Asylums.

At Haverfordwest the Clerk of the Union gave us an account of nearly all the insane persons in that district. He described all the Lunatics that he knew as being well taken care of, except four Idiots, of the name of Lewis, the children of the same parents, living at Llan-y-Cefn, about fourteen miles from Haverfordwest. The Officer of the Union said that the condition of these poor creatures was miserable and melancholy in the extreme, and that they lie about in the streets like brutes. It is to be observed that this Officer thought that Priscilla Lloyd living in the town of Haverfordwest was well taken care of.

In many parts of South Wales a considerable proportion of the Paupers returned as Insane are either Idiots or Imbeciles. They are usually persons of weak bodily health, and unequal to hard labour, and even incapable of performing such work as requires the intelligence of an ordinary labouring man. They can, however, sometimes by doing a little work, partly maintain themselves. Many of them are harmless if unmolested; but not a few of them are at times dangerous and require restraint. One serious evil of which there is great cause for complaint, is the extreme carelessness that prevails with respect to the births that take place amongst unmarried

Female Idiots. In some of the Unions it appears to be customary to take in females of extreme imbecility in a pregnant state. After the birth of a miserable child, almost sure to be equally imbecile and weak with the parent, the mothers are suffered to go at large, and some of them return in a few weeks again pregnant. In one case the Medical Attendant of a Union told us that he had delivered one of these Idiotic women of a misshapen monster. In general there is no clue whatever to the male parent, these poor creatures being unable to give any trustworthy account of themselves. In the Union at Haverfordwest there are at the present time ninety-one children, of whom upwards of eighty are illegitimate.

We were informed that Paupers in South Wales often regarded children of imbecile mind rather as benefits than evils, on account of the allowance made by the Parishes for them. The condition of many of these imbeciles is attributed by intelligent persons in great part to neglect during youth, and the manner in which the children are brought up. Parents are unwilling to have their offspring educated, partly from ignorance and prejudice, and in part, as we were assured, with a view to procure parish allowance for their maintenance.

The following persons belonging to the Haverfordwest Union are with their relatives or with strangers, and appear to us to be unfit for such care :—

Josiah Lewis, a Lunatic.—Will not get out of bed. He lives with his father.

Caroline Morris, a Lunatic.—Lies in bed with her clothes on, and is occasionally violent and abusive. She lives with a cousin.

Mary Harris, a Lunatic, who is violent at times.

Ann Jenkins, an Idiot, aged 36.—Occasionally violent, and when in the Workhouse was under restraint.

CORRECTIONS TO BE MADE IN THE EARLY COPIES OF THE GENERAL REPORT. ---

- Pago 3, line 15, *for* "99," *read* "98."
- " " 16, *for* "59," *read* "54."
- " " 17, *for* "40," *read* "44."
- " 79, line 6, *for* "former," *read* "person."
- " 145, substitute "fresh leaf."
- " 180, line 29, *for* "requested," *read* "required by the Act 5 & 6 Vic. c. 87, s. 27."
- " 191, in the table, "August 1843, England, Lunatics, Males," *for* "715," *read* "7123."
- " " " " "August 1843, Wales, Population," *for* "939,7123," *read* "939,715."
- " " " " "Totals—Lunatics, Males," *for* "7562," *read* "7662."
- " " line 3 from bottom, *for* "in his report for 1842," *read* "in his fourth Report."
- " 212, Table, *for* "Kersbaw, P. Billington, Whalley, near Tew," *read* "Kershaw, P. (Surgeon) Billington, near Whalley;" next line, *for* "Brook Villa," *read* "Tue Brook Villa."
- " 213, Table, *for* "Taylor, Isaac, Acomb," *read* "Taylor, Isaac, Grove House, Acomb;" next line, in "number of patients," *read* "13, 13," *for* "1, 2."
- " 239, Table, county of Hereford, alter figures as follows: "Accommodation in Private Asylum at Whitchurch," *from* "20 to 35," the total *from* "48 to 63;" "numbers for whom there is accommodation," *from* "48 to 63;" "numbers for whom there is not," *from* "99 to 84."
- " 243, In line 2, after Table, *for* "either Public or Private," *read* "either Public or Private, for Paupers."

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